

Def. Doc. # 1038

STATEMENT OF THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE,
MADE ON THE 26TH DECEMBER, 1937, CONCERNING
THE PANAY INCIDENT.

His Excellency Mr. Joseph C. Grew, the American Ambassador to Japan, called on the Foreign Minister, Mr. Koki Hirota, at 11:30 o'clock a.m. on the 26th December; and after informing the Foreign Minister that he came to make a happy report, the American Ambassador read essential contents of the Note of the Government of the United States to the Government of Japan, and then said to the Foreign Minister, with special reference to the last paragraph of the American Note, to the effect that the Government of the United States hopes that the steps which the Japanese Government has taken will prove effective toward preventing any further attacks or unlawful interference by Japanese authorities or forces with American nationals, interests or property in China. In response to this the Foreign Minister, Mr. Hirota, giving expression to the profound gratitude of the Japanese Government for the attitude shown by the Government of the United States and the earnest efforts of the American Ambassador Mr. Grew, toward the present incident, said that although it was exceedingly regrettable that an unfortunate incident such as this had happened, it was a matter for congratulation that the incident

Def. Doc. # 1038

had reached an amicable settlement through the friendly spirit existing between the United States and Japan.

The full text of the Note of the Government of the United States is shown in the attached sheets.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Tokyo, December 26, 1937.

Excellency:

I have the honor, by the direction of my Government, to address to Your Excellency the following note:

"The Government of the United States refers to its note of December 14, the Japanese Government's note of December 14 and the Japanese Government's note of December 24 in regard to the attack by Japanese armed forces upon the U.S.S. PANAY and three American merchant ships.

"In this Government's note of December 14 it was stated that "The Government of the United States requests and expects of the Japanese Government a formally recorded expression of regret, an undertaking to make complete and comprehensive indemnifications, and an assurance that definite and specific steps have been taken which will ensure that hereafter American nationals, interests and property in China will not be subjected to attack by Japanese armed forces or unlawful interference by any Japanese authorities or forces whatsoever."

Def. Doc. # 1038

"In regard to the first two items of the request made by the Government of the United States, the Japanese Government's note of December 24 reaffirms statements made in the Japanese Government's note of December 14 which read "The Japanese Government regret most profoundly that it (the present incident) has caused damages to the United States' man-of-war and ships and casualties among those on board, and desire to present hereby sincere apologies. The Japanese Government will make indemnifications for all the losses and will deal appropriately with those responsible for the incident". In regard to the third item of the request made by the Government of the United States, the Japanese Government's note of December 24 recites certain definite and specific steps which the Japanese Government has taken to ensure, in words of that note, "Against infringement of, or unwarranted interference with, the rights and interests of the United States and other third Powers" and states that "The Japanese Government are thus endeavoring to preclude absolutely all possibility of the recurrence of incidents of a similar character".

"The Government of the United States observed with satisfaction the promptness with which the Japanese Government in its note of December 14 admitted responsibility, expressed regret, and offered amends.

"The Government of the United States regards the Japanese Government's account, as set forth in the Japanese Government's

Def. Doc. # 1038

note of December 24, of action taken by it as response : to the request made by the Government of the United States in this Government's note of December 14.

"With regard to the facts of the origins, causes and circumstances of the incident, the Japanese Government indicates in its note of December 24 the conclusion at which the Japanese Government, as a result of its investigation, has arrived. With regard to these same matters, the Government of the United States relies on the report of findings of the court of inquiry of the United States Navy, a copy of which has been communicated officially to the Japanese Government.

"It is the earnest hope of the Government of the United States that the steps which the Japanese Government has taken will prove effective toward preventing any further attacks or unlawful interference by Japanese authorities or forces with American nationals, interests or property in China."

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed: Joseph C. Grew.

His Excellency

Mr. Koki Hirota,

His Imperial Japanese Majesty's

Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Def. Doc. # 1038

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 4 pages and entitled "Statement of the spokesman of the Foreign Office, made on the 26th December, 1937, concerning the Panay Incident." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 5th day of April, 1947.

(signed) K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. Urabe

1637
Dec 26 1937

「パネー」就事件ニ關スル外務當局談（昭和十二年十二月二十六日）

十二月二十六日午前十一時三十分駐日「ゲル」米國大使ハ廣田外相ヲ來訪シ本日ハ華僑ナル御報告ヲ爲ス爲參上セリト談渉シタル後米國政府ノ對日通牒ノ大體ヲ讀ミ上ケタル後特ニ通牒最後ニ記載サレタル米國政府ハ日本政府ノ執リタル持論カ今次支那ニ在ル米國民及米國ノ利益並ニ財產ニ對スル日本官憲若ハ軍隊ノ攻撃乃至不法干涉ヲ阻止スル上ニ效果アルコトカ證明サレンコトヲ切望スル旨ヲ申述ヘタ、之ニ對シ廣田外相ハ今次事件ニ對シ米國政府ノ示シタル態度及駐日「ゲル」米國大使ノ盡力ニ對シ深甚ナル謝意ヲ表示シタ。

尙ホ斯ル不祥事ノ發生シタコトハ遺憾ニ堪ヘナイカ兩國ノ友交的精神ニヨリ茲ニ解決ヲ見ルニ至ツタコトハ慶賀ノ至リテアル。

米國政府ノ對日通牒全文左ノ如シ

十二月二十六日附米國大使來翰假譯文

以舊稱啓上致倭領者本大使ハ本國政府ノ訓令ニ基キ閣下ニ同テ左記ノ通

申進スルノ先榮ヲ有シ

合衆國政府ハ米國砲艦「バネー」就及米國商船三隻ニ對スル日本軍ノ攻撃ニ關シ十二月十四日附米國政府公文、同日附日本政府公文及十二月二十日附日本政府公文ニ言及致す。

米國政府ノ十二月十四日附公文ニ於テ「合衆國政府ハ日本政府ニ對シ正式書面ニ依ル遺憾ノ意ノ表明完全且充分ナル賠償ノ支那及今後支那ニ在ル米國國民、權利及財產カ日本武裝軍ノ攻撃ヲ受ケス又一切ノ日本官憲若ハ日本軍ニ依リ不法ナル干涉ヲ受ケサルコトヲ保障スヘキ決定的且特定的書面カ領ラレタリトノ保障ヲ要求且期待スル」旨聲明致置候。

合衆國政府ニ依リ爲サレタル要求中最初ノ二項目ニ歸シテハ十二月二十四日附日本政府公文ハ「米國軍艦及汽船ニ損害ヲ與ヘ其ノ乗員ニ死傷者ヲ生セシムルニ至リタルハ帝國政府ノ深ク遺憾トスルトコロニシテ茲ニ爲ク陳謝ノ意ヲ表スル」旨御申越アリタル十二月十四日附日本政府公文
中ノ聲明ヲ再確認セラルルモノニ有之候合衆國政府ニ依リ爲サレタル要

米ノ第三項目ニ關シテハ日本政府公文ノ字句ニ依レハ「米國其ノ他第三國ノ利益財產ヲ攻擊シ又ハ不法ナル干涉ヲ加フ可カラサルコト」ヲ保障スル爲日本政府力能ニ執ラレタル取極ノ決定的且特定の措置ヲ敘述シ且「日本政府ハ此ノ範圍ノ絶無ヲ期シタル次第ニ有之」旨聲明被致候。

合衆國政府ハ日本政府力同政府ノ十二月十四日附公文ニ於テ責任ヲ容認シ、遺憾ヲ表明シ、且保障ヲ御申出相成タル營業ノ迅速ナリシコトヲ滿足ヲ以テ了承致候。

合衆國政府ハ十二月二十四日附日本政府公文ニ表明セラレタル通同政府ニ依リ執ラレタル態度ニ關スル説明ハ十二月十四日附合衆國政府公文ニ於テ同政府ノ爲シタル要求ニ這應スルモノナリト思考致候本事件ノ發生、原因及經過ニ關スル諸事實ニ付テハ日本政府ハ十二月二十四日附同政府公文中ニ於テ同政府ノ調査ノ結果同政府力到達相成タル結論ヲ言明被致候、此等同一事項ニ關シテ合衆國政府ハ米國海軍空軍委員會ノ決定報告書ニ依據スルモノニ有之處同報告書ハ既ニ日本政府ニ送シ公式通達済

Dep Dec 11/10 30

ノ次第ニ有之候。

合衆國政府ハ日本政府ニ於テ既ニ執ラレタル諸營業カ今後支那ニ在ル米
國國民、米國ノ利益又ハ財産ニ對スル日本官憲若ハ日本軍ニ依ル何等攻
撃又ハ不法ナル干涉ヲ防止スルコトニ有效ナルヘキコトヲ切望スルモノ
ニ有之候。

右回答申進旁本使ハ茲ニ重ネテ閣下ニ向ツテ敬意ヲ表シ候。

Def. Dec 10 38

文部省新聞ニ成立ニ就スル證明書

自分、林義ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル
日本新聞ニ載ツテ暫カレ四頁ヨリ取ルバネ一號事件ニ關スル外務當局談
（昭和十二年十二月二十六日）ト題スル新聞ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ保
管ニ當ル公文書ノ正類ニシテ眞實ナル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月五日 於東京

林 義

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ眞實ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

爲 部 勝 馬